



May 20, 2009

*An Open Letter to Public School Community Members in New Orleans:*

Dear Public School Champion:

We invite you to partner with the **Connect2Educate (C2E) Collaborative** to ensure that all public schools and public school students are given the opportunity to access quality resources and programs available to them in our community. As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we affirm the significant progress that has been made in engaging community support of public schools and public school children. This support includes parent engagement, financial support, programmatic support, and volunteer support. Of course, these supports vary by school.


Our collaborative formed in 2008 and focused on a single niche of community support: the connection of programs to schools. In March, 2009, the **C2E Collaborative** coordinated an event and published a guide, known as the **C2E Notebook**. The focus was a logical step as it helped school leadership teams become informed of programs that are available in Orleans Parish. The **C2E Notebook** details more than 100 organizations whose programming is available to public schools and public school students. The **C2E Notebook** closes the knowledge gap about the availability of programs among school leadership teams. Armed with current, relevant information, each and every school community is now better equipped to engage those programs which enrich the school experience for children.


We believe that it is imperative to repeat this process in 2009-2010. We urge you to partner with us and the numerous organizations that endorse our work\* to make the 2009-2010 **Connect2Educate Event** and **Notebook** even more productive and successful. With a group effort and stronger partnership, this productive collaborative will address direct challenges and help public school leaders enrich the educational experience of students. We are committed to ensuring equitable access to resources and programs citywide that will ultimately improve outcomes for all children.

To learn more about our efforts or to sign on to be a part of the **C2E Collaborative** in 2009-2010, please attend the Connect2Educate Information Reception on June 23, 2009 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at LEH. (See enclosed invitation for details.) Refreshments will be served. Let's begin to Connect2Educate!

In Partnership,

The C2E Collaborative

  
Miranda Restovic  
Louisiana  
Endowment for the  
New Orleans  
Humanities (LEH)

  
Sara Woodard  
Start the Adventure  
in Reading (STAIR)

  
Angela Daliet  
Save Our Schools  
NOLA (SOS NOLA)

Dennis Bagneris Jr.  
GNO Afterschool  
Partnership (GNOAP)

Sara Massey  
Communities in  
Schools

(CIS New Orleans)

\*See attached list of organizations that endorse our work.

